

in red in the usual fashion along with a letter to the Official Draftsperson. Should the Examiner have any further objections to the drawings, it is respectfully requested that he telephone the undersigned to discuss this matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 - 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of Sunaga '393. In response, Applicant submits herewith a statement of common ownership. Since Applicant is the common owner of both this application and the '393 patent, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicant has also investigated to be certain that there is no other publication of '393 elsewhere in the world. It has been determined that there is no such publication which would constitute a bar under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

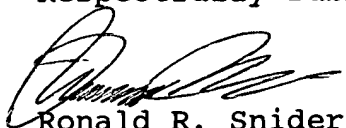
New Claims

Applicant also submits with this amendment new claims 28 - 34. These claims relate to the images (image display section) and its content. Support for these claims is found at pages 97, 107 and 113 of the specification.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, and early action in accordance thereof is requested. In the event there is any reason why the application cannot be allowed in this current condition, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the number listed below to resolve any problems by Interview or Examiner's Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald R. Snider
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Date: March 18, 2002

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIn the Claims:

Claims 23 - 26 have been amended as follows:

23. (New) A gaming machine according to claim 14, wherein said [special] game information displayed in said image display section is [special] game information concerning a state of progress of said special game.

24. (New) A gaming machine according to claim 16, wherein said [special] game information displayed in said image display section is [special] game information concerning a state of progress of said special game.

25. (New) A gaming machine according to claim 18, wherein said [special] game information displayed in said image display section is [special] game information concerning a state of progress of said special game.

26. (New) A gaming machine according to claim 20, wherein said [special] game information displayed in said image display section is [special] game information concerning a state of progress of said special game.

New claims 28 - 34 have been added.